



PRESS STATEMENT

Objection to the Amendment of the Johor State Constitution

For Immediate Release

6th May 2026

The Johor State Government is expected to table Law of the Constitution of Government of 1985 (Second Part) (Amendment) Enactment 2026 during the State Assembly (DUN) session on 7th May 2026. The proposed bill seeks to amend Article 15 of the State Constitution to authorise the appointment of up to five (5) additional assembly members (ADUN). Specifically, it intends to insert the phrase "*dan tidak lebih daripada lima orang ahli yang dilantik*" (and not more than five appointed members) into the provision.

Persatuan Bertindak Pilihan Raya Adil dan Saksama ("**Tindak**") strongly objects the amendment bill, which poses the risk of weakening the State's democratic mandate.

Firstly, the appointed ADUNs lack accountability to constituents. Unlike an elected ADUN who represents a specific area (in our current Single Member Territorial Representation framework), appointed members have no constituency. Consequently, citizens have no democratic mechanism, such as the ballot box, to remove them for poor performance.

The proposed bill is exacerbated by the government's failure to provide a clear, objective justification for such appointments, particularly when a State Election is nearing.¹ This lack of necessity is even more glaring in a stable assembly where Barisan Nasional is in control of two-thirds majority, and no vacancies have been created by the passing of an incumbent recently (with last vacancy was for DUN Mahkota of 2024).

¹ Nor Azura Md Amin (Sinar Harian), <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/778529/edisi/johor/5-adun-lantikan-agihan-parti-terlibat-masih-belum-diputuskan> (published on 5th May 2026)

Secondly, the practice of appointing members artificially inflates a government's majority.

Based on the proposed bill, the appointment process requires a motion of seven (7) ADUNs and a simple majority within the DUN, the authority to select these members rests entirely with the ruling coalition of the day. This creates a self-serving mechanism where the ruling coalition can allocate these seats to itself. It is also unlikely that the ruling coalition will share these seats across party lines.

Since the source of power for these ADUNs originates from the assembly's legal mechanisms rather than a direct mandate from the people, their loyalty is structurally bound to the executive branch, which ultimately goes against the fundamental principle of a representative democracy, where the legislature is meant to serve as an independent check on executive power rather than an extension of it.

Thirdly, the proposed amendment lacks the specific, protective safeguards that prevent the abuse of such appointments. For instance, Article 27 (2) of the Terengganu State Constitution² explicitly ties the power of appointment to a clear functional need, where members may only be appointed if the election fails to produce a woman or non-Muslim representative. In contrast, the current bill for Johor contains no such prerequisite or qualifying criteria.

Without these defined boundaries, the DUN is effectively granted the power to add members at its "whim and fancy", regardless of whether the assembly already reflects the state's diversity. One thing to note is that in the current Johor's DUN, there are 14 women in the 56-member Legislative Assembly – one of the highest in percentages in Johor's history and as of 2026, highest among all states in Malaysia. Proposed amendment may undermine the success of Johor in terms of women representation.

Fourthly, the appointment of additional members imposes an unnecessary financial burden on the State Treasury. Such a move is particularly hard to justify given the current global economic climate. As of mid-2026, the ongoing conflict in West Asia has driven global oil prices,

² Zakuan, U. A. A. (2023). Challenges for women in political parties in Malaysia and acceleration strategies to leadership in politics. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. <https://www.kas.de/documents/272088/23299843/E-Book+2023-02-08+Challenges+for+Women+in+Political+Parties+in+Malaysia.pdf/f9e65137-c8f2-0f59-7761-4b9d4dcd9379?version=1.1&t=1686190616307>

inflating the fuel price and forcing the Federal Government to consider drastic budget cuts across critical sectors like health and education to manage the swelling subsidy bill.³

In conclusion, the proposed amendment to Article 15 of the Johor State Constitution is a regressive step for parliamentary democracy in Malaysia. Tindak calls upon Rakyat Johor and all members of the Johor DUN to reject this amendment which dilutes the voting power of the people and risks exacerbating the ruling coalition's advantage.

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Persatuan Bertindak Pilihan Raya Adil dan Saksama ("Tindak")

³ Alzahrin Alias, Fahmy A Rosli (NST), <https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2026/04/1429258/treasury-proposes-rm545-billion-budget-cuts-health-higher-education> (published on 29th April 2026)